



## CHYBIK + KRISTOF ARCHITECTS COMPLETE THE LAHOFER WINERY IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

*Nestled in the Moravian countryside, the design of the Lahofer Winery brings together a longstanding wine tradition and contemporary wine-making processes. Housing a visitor center, tasting room and production facilities, the structure immerses itself in the landscape, achieving a subtle symbiosis with the surrounding vines.*



**UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL AUGUST 5, 2020** (Dobšice, Czech Republic) – CHYBIK + KRISTOF ARCHITECTS & URBAN DESIGNERS have completed construction of the Lahofer Winery in the Czech Republic. Nestled in the Moravian countryside, the Lahofer Winery fuses the region's longstanding wine tradition with a contemporary design in constant dialogue with the surrounding vines. Reflective of modern wine-making processes, the building brings together three distinct interconnected structures – a wine-making facility, the winery's administrative base, and a visitor center and adjoining tasting room. Emulating archetypal wine cellars of the region, the vault of the winery rests on a grid of arched beams. Acting as a mirror of this shape, an undulant roof serves as an amphitheater for cultural events open to both locals and visitors, merging the winery into the ground – and the culture – on which it rests.

CHYBIK + KRISTOF's project finds its roots in the legacy of the Lahofer Winery – one grounded in a storied cultural heritage and a profound respect for the natural environment. Responding to Moravia's topography and architectural tradition, rooted in the culture of wine, the architects conceive a design in symbiosis with the region's landscape. Reminiscent of the region's characteristic arched wine cellars, a colonnade of vaulted beams frames the interior space into its storied curve. On its exterior side, draping the winery, an undulant roof acts as an inclined open-air amphitheater and cultural venue. Lightening

the volume of the building as it rests on the fertile soil, below lie three separate spaces – each attributed with a distinct function, they share a constant concern for the adjoining nature.

Towered by the concave roof of the amphitheater, the space unfolds into a vast cellar, embracing the design of archetypal Czech wineries defined by the exposed rib construction of the arches. Each reinforced concrete arch is individually designed to fit a specific angle of the ceiling, while the distance between the arches is determined by that between the vine rows. Each module rises from a vine row and runs through the space, achieving perfect visual symmetry and guiding the viewer's gaze across the grapevines. Enclosed in a glass façade and facing south, the visitor center draws abundant light as the windows act as concealed separation from the exterior vine rows. Informed by the ambient nature, the visitor center invites visitors to fully experience its produce in the barrique cellar, made of wood, concrete and glass, and adjoining tasting room. A large-scale mural painting by Czech contemporary artist Patrik Hábl covers the entire ceiling area. Its tampered, irregular and sparse strokes, ranging from earthy reds and blacks to terroir-reminiscent browns and beiges, echo the variations of the soil and its weightlessness as it seemingly lifts from the ground, leaving its timeless markings on the walls.

In the continuity of this material wave, the structure houses its production in two halls of distinct heights, each mirroring a specific process. The first lower hall centralizes the operations, including wine-making production and employee facilities, while the second allows for operations that require lower temperatures, such as the wine press, the cellar, and the wine store. The varying heights of the interior spaces, emulating the terrain, allow for the alignment of corresponding functional exterior courtyards. While one courtyard serves as the operational area, centralizing logistic and production presses, the other holds the amphitheater, extending sweeping views of the landscape.



An open space emerging from the rhythmic vines, the amphitheater invests the boundless roof, overlooking a horizon nourished by its history. Expanding on the Lahofer Winery's function from a production site into a witness to the local culture, it acts as a community space dedicated to cultural events, including local grape harvest celebrations and theater performances – a hub for its lasting community to connect with visitors of the region and wide-ranging wine connoisseurs.

Describing the concept, founding architects Ondřej Chybík and Michal Krištof explain, *“The design of the Lahofer Winery is deeply rooted in nature, and in the respect thereof. At a time when culture and nature appear to be antagonistic forces, we envision a space reflective of the longstanding symbiosis between the two in the region – one that profoundly respects the environment on which it rests. The structure unfolds into the native terrain, immerses itself into the surrounding vine rows, thereby preserving the essence and integrity of both soil and culture. Additionally, moving beyond a purely productive viewpoint, we prioritize the visitor experience, notably by allocating the roof as a public space open to local and international visitors – an experience essential to the understanding and appreciation of the wine.”*

A selection of press images (drawings and project views) can be accessed on <https://bit.ly/2Dz9q2Q>.

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#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

##### **About CHYBIK + KRISTOF**

CHYBIK + KRISTOF is an architecture and urban design practice founded in 2010 by Ondřej Chybík and Michal Krištof. Operating with 50+ international team members and offices in Prague, Brno and Bratislava, the practice aims at creating bridges between private and public space, transcending generations and societal spheres. Taking into account local histories and environmental specificities, the studio works on a wide array of projects, ranging from urban developments to public and residential buildings. Recent projects include: Gallery of Furniture (Czech Republic), the Czech Pavilion at Expo 2015 (Milan, Italy) and Lahofer Winery (Czech Republic). The studio has been awarded a number of prizes, including the 2019 Vanguard Award from Architectural Record.

<https://chybik-kristof.com/>

##### **About Lahofer Winery**

Deriving its name from the Dobšice native, artistic woodcarver Jan Lahofer, the Lahofer Winery was established in 2003 in the Czech Republic's historical Moravian wine producing region. The Lahofer winemakers are supported by a strong tradition of viticulture in the Znojmo region, developed through state-of-the-art viticulture procedures and technologies. The winery produces wines from all the main Central European grape varieties, exclusively from grapes grown in their own vineyards (with the exception of the special series of French wines), selling part of their vineyard production to other wine producers. The Lahofer Winery is one of the largest wine producers in the Czech Republic, covering over 430 hectares and produces half a million bottles annually.



Client: Lahofer Winery

Location: Dobšice, Czech Republic

Year: 2015

Completion: Spring 2020

Size: 3 900 m<sup>2</sup> (Ground floor area)

Status: Building Site

Team: Ondrej Chybik, Michal Kristof, Hanin Al-Gibury, Karolina Holankova, Martin Holy, Vojtech Kouril, Ondrej Mundl, Matej Strba, Zuzana Zathurecka, Zuzana Pelikanova, Victor Cojocar, Laura Emilija Druktenytė, Zuzana Lisoňová, Gabriela Voláková

Lahofer Winery (Vinařství LAHOFER)

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<https://www.lahofer.cz/en/winery>

*Image credits:*

*Image 1. Exterior view of the Lahofer Winery, designed by CHYBIK + KRISTOF. Photography by Alex Shoots Buildings.*

*Image 2. Interior view of the Lahofer Winery, designed by CHYBIK + KRISTOF. Photography by Alex Shoots Buildings.*